

INSIDE: Three Big Ones For September-Page 1. Golf Consumer-1. Rankin Wins Tarnow-4. FSGA News-13. Floridians At U.S. Amateur-15. 1978 State Amateur To The President C.C.-16

Gulf Coast Golf

WITH FSGA NEWS AND OTHER FEATURES

SEPTEMBER 1977



Here's a bargain practice schedule for 25 players! As part of its "sports for leisure" program Manatee Junior College in Bradenton will offer a golf clinic covering rules, etiquette, terminology, swing fundamentals and shotmaking techniques for 25 students.

Classes meet Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings from Sept. 13 to Oct. 8 or from Oct. 8 to Nov. 12. Fee \$15. Betcha there's a demand to enlarge the enrollment.

Looking ahead to a Scottish golf fling a Gulf Coast group plans to take over a manor house and resort chalets two miles from the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, site of the 1978 British Open. The week prior to the Open there will be daily play for the group on courses within 50 mile radius of central base. The ticket package includes special ayem privileges during the tournament for play on nearby courses so Gulf Coasters can make it back in the afternoon for Open watching.

Golf architect Ron Garl, appetite whetted by trip to auld sod in July, is early signer-on for the '78 adventure. Contact Golf Consumer if your foursome wishes full details.

Moment of truth for newly appointed Sarasota County Commissioner Jim Neville comes in vote on controversial golf course effluent irrigation issue at Sarasota Golf Club. A rabid environmentalist Neville long has espoused recycled water for drinking and irrigation. Golf course fairway residents are opposed to the watering method which has been working nicely for many courses.

Don't look for that compass-shaped gadget advertised in the Wall Street

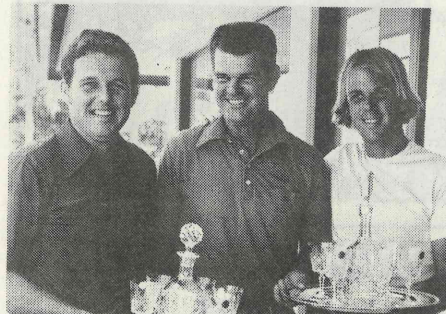
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Focus On Fall

FSGA STATE AMATEUR 4-BALL, EAST BAY INVITATIONAL, PGA SENIORS, NAPLES, TOP EVENTS

BY BILL FRITTS

THREE MAJOR GOLF EVENTS, highlighted by FSGA's State Amateur Four-Ball Championship, are on tap for the Gulf Coast in September, offering prime competition and a tantalizing hoard of prizes.



KEVIN BUTLER AND MICKEY VAN GERBIG, shown with then FSGA President Dexter Daniels, Sr. center, after winning the 1976 State Four-Ball at Palm Aire CC in Pompano Beach, are expected to defend their title Sept. 24-25 at the Longboat Key Golf & Tennis Club in Sarasota. Van Gerbig is the current holder of the State Amateur title.

The Four-Ball will be played by two-man teams at the Longboat Key Golf & Tennis Club in Sarasota Sept. 24-25, marking the second time this challenging seaside layout has been the scene of the competition. The first time was in 1963 when the tournament was over 54 holes and Dick Blooston and Bob Crissy of Pompano Beach subdued the tough Gulf-side course with an 11-under-par 205. Taking runnerup honors then were Bob Murphy of Lakeland and Chip Anderson of Sarasota, University of Florida team mates, who put together a respectable 208 over the three-day route. Murphy has been a successful pro tourist for 10 years but

Anderson, still a Sarasota resident and sales manager for Arvida's Longboat Key properties, will be entered in the tournament.

The Longboat club, characterized by narrow fairways and flanking water hazards, also was the scene of the 1969 FSGA State Amateur, won by Bob Rankin of Clearwater.

The popular Four-Ball was played last year at Palm-Aire Country Club in Pompano Beach and was won by Mickey Van Gerbig of Palm Beach, the reigning State Amateur champion, and Kevin Butler of West Palm Beach, with a pair of 67s. They edged Gary Schroeder of Winter Park and then State Amateur Champ Glen Kirk of Orlando by one stroke, posting 13 pars and five birdies on the last day of the two-day event.

Van Gerbig and Butler will be on hand to defend their Four-Ball title, one of the most coveted in the FSGA's tournament portfolio.

Team entry fee for the 36-hole stroke play best ball event is \$70 and includes two days of golf, carts, and parties Friday and Saturday evenings. Team prizes will be given in all flights. The club will give a free practice round Friday prior to the tournament. Contestants pay for their carts for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TOURNAMENT
ENTRY FORMS
PAGES 6 & 7

YESTERDAYS



BEACH CLUB SPONSOR Henry Watkins, left, winner Pete Cooper and the late Denny Champagne were prominent during awards party at Naples, Florida PGA in 1964. Right — Bob Murphy and Chip Anderson had a second place finish in 1963 4-Ball at Longboat Key.

TOURNAMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Friday round. Practice rounds at other times prior to the tournament will be charged for at the rate of \$10 per person for green fee and share of cart.

THE BEACH CLUB HOTEL in Naples, one of the West Coast's most popular and venerable layouts, will be the scene in mid-September of a memorial salute to Denny Champagne, founder and first president of the Florida Section PGA.

The Beach Club and the Florida PGA have joined forces to sponsor the Florida PGA Memorial Senior Championship, scheduled Sept. 14-15, honoring the memory of Champagne and his contributions to Florida PGA golf. (Champagne, incidentally, was the FSGA's 1964 Fairway Award recipient.) It will be a 36-hole stroke play event with a \$12,000 purse (based on 200 players).

In addition, there will be a Pro-Am 18-hole event on Sept. 13, to which all FSGA seniors have been invited. Practice rounds are set for Sept. 11, 12 and 13 for the Memorial event.

The Beach Club Hotel is offering a special rate for tournament entrants and their families, and the same rate will apply to early arrivals.

AT THE END of September the East Bay Golf & Country Club of Largo is staging an inaugural event, the 1977 Annual Invitational Golf Tournament, which will be a 54-hole stroke play tournament with prizes being awarded through the first five places and in all flights.

Entry fee of \$125 will include all green fees, electric carts, cocktail parties and dinners Friday and Saturday nights. Entertainment will include dining and dancing to Earl Hagen's "Party Poopers" orchestra and to Billy Moore's orchestra.

The tournament begins Friday, Sept. 30 and ends Sunday, Oct. 2. A practice round will be held Thursday, Sept. 29.

Entries close Sept. 15, with the field limited to 144 contestants.

Special highlights of the event include giving away a 1977 luxury automobile for hole-in-one contest on No. 9 green, closest to pin and hitting the green contests, and a putting championship for men.

There will also be a special flight for top area pros, including Skip Alexander of Lakewood Country Club, Dean Refram of Saddlebrook, Mike Souchak of Innsbrook, Jimmy Barber of East Bay, and others.

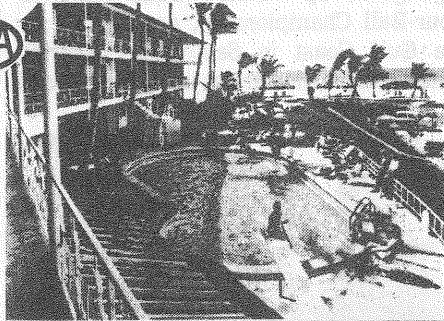
Those wishing to make advance hotel reservations may call the East Bay Club at (813) 584-7111.

FSGA TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS



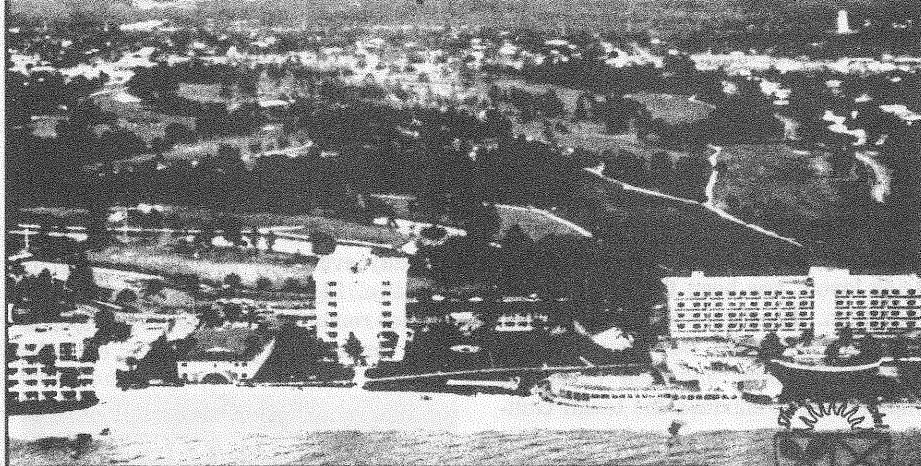
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What's Happening In Tournaments

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3-5 — Innisbrook, Tarpon Springs, Tarnow Classic.
 Sept. 7-9 — Cape Coral G&Rc, Cape Coral, Scratch Pro-Am.
 Sept. 12 — Lely Hibiscus, Naples, SW Florida PGA Pro-Am.
 Sept. 13 — Naples Beach Club, pro-am.
 Sept. 13-15 — Saddlebrook G&CC, Wesley Chapel, Ladies Mid-State Amateur.
 Sept. 14-15 — Naples Beach Club, Fla. PGA Memorial Senior Championship.
 Sept. 16 — Cove Cay G&TC, Clearwater, pro-am.
 Sept. 17-18 — Bobby Jones GC, Sarasota,

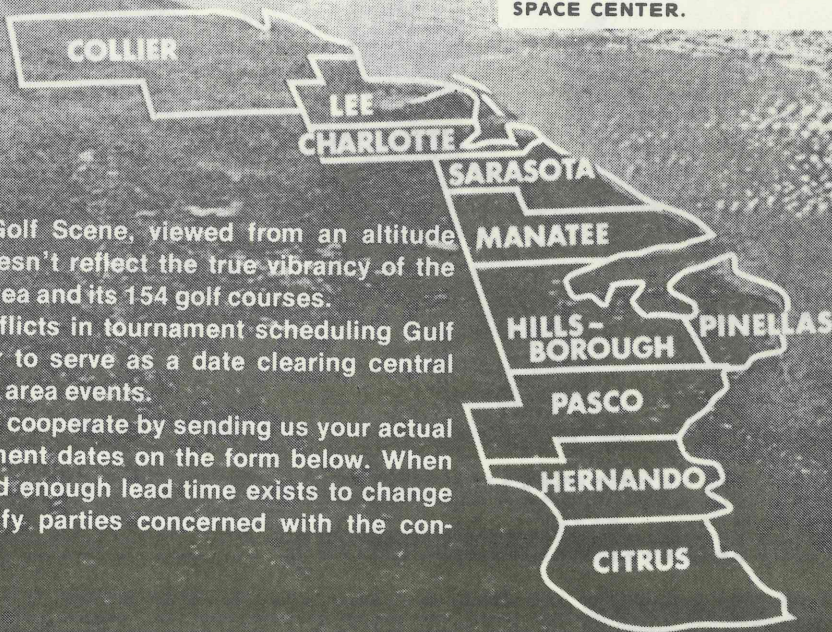
Sarasota City Best-Ball.
 Sept. 17-18 — Foxfire GC, Sarasota, Suncoast Women's Best-Ball Team.
 Sept. 20 — Palma Ceia CC, Tampa, pro-lady.
 Sept. 23 — Univ. of South Florida, Tampa, Bill Gibson Memorial.
 Sept. 24 — Santa Rosa CC, Bradenton, 6th Annual Santa Rosa Youth Classic.
 Sept. 24-25 — Longboat Key Golf Club, Sarasota, FSGA State Amateur 4-Ball.
 Sept. 29 — Rolling Green GC, Sarasota, Elks Club Tournament.
 Sept. 30 — East Lake Woodlands, Palm Harbor, pro-am.
 Sept. 30-Oct. 1-2 — East Bay G&CC, Largo, 1977 Annual Invitational.

OCTOBER

Oct. 6-8 — Lake Buena Vista CC, Rollins Amateur Golf Championship.
 Oct. 7 — Countryside CC, Clearwater, pro-lady.

Oct. 8-9 — Lockmoor CC, Ft. Myers, Lochmoor Fall Classic.
 Oct. 8-9 — Univ. of S. Florida, Tampa, Wes Berner Memorial.
 Oct. 14 — Cove Cay G&CC, Clearwater, pro-am.
 Oct. 15-16 — Rolling Green GC, Sarasota, Herald-Tribune 4-County Men's Championship.
 Oct. 22 — Lakewood CC, Naples, U.S. Olympians.
 Oct. 22-23 — Lake Venice GC, Venice, Ladies West Coast Partner's Best-Ball.
 Oct. 24-27 — Naples Beach Club, Florida Seniors Women.
 Oct. 24-27 — Palm River CC, Naples, Fla. Senior Women's Auxiliary.
 Oct. 28 — East Lake Woodlands, Palm Harbor, pro-am.
 Oct. 29-30 — Tampa City Medal Play, Babe Zaharias GC and Rogers Park GC.
 Oct. 29-30 — Capri Isles GC, Venice, Big Brothers Best-Ball.

NASA PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON 105TH ORBIT OF APOLLO 9 MISSION, ALTITUDE 127 STATUTE MILES, MARCH 1969. COURTESY OF KENNEDY SPACE CENTER.



The Gulf Coast Golf Scene, viewed from an altitude of 127 miles, doesn't reflect the true vibrancy of the ten county coastal area and its 154 golf courses.

To minimize conflicts in tournament scheduling Gulf Coast Golf will offer to serve as a date clearing central for important coastal area events.

We hope you will cooperate by sending us your actual or proposed tournament dates on the form below. When conflict is noted, and enough lead time exists to change dates, we shall notify parties concerned with the conflicting events.

GULF COAST GOLF
 P.O. DRAWER 1298
 SARASOTA FL 33578

Please list dates and locations of these events in your next issue:

Send _____ free copies of each issue of Gulf Coast Golf for distribution to our members.

Name _____ Club _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Journal to improve your tee shots. It will perform as advertised in leveling your ball on the tee. But the guy on the grip end of the swing implement still must make square and level contact with the ball to put it into straight flight.



TARNOW WINNER BOB RANKIN held his share of putts for a four shot victory in the annual Labor Day Weekend Classic at Innisbrook. Big Bob scored 77-66-74-217, one over par for the Copperhead course, to top the large holiday field. Rankin, a Clearwater insurance executive, was FSGA's State Amateur Champion in 1969. Christ Sarro, Tampa, was second in the Tarnow with 221 and Bill Golson, Temple Terrace, third 223.

RAMADA INN
ROADSIDE HOTELS

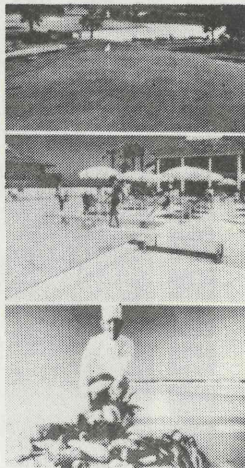
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- Meeting Facilities.

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Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

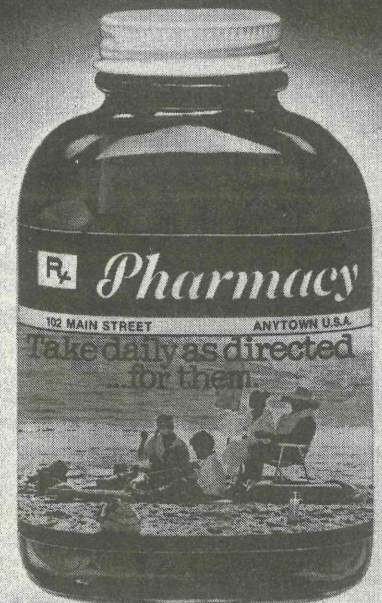
to go or not to go

The Golf Guide often makes the difference in course and accommodation selection. Don't be left out of the 1978 Guide! Advertising deadline is September 30.

Florida GOLF GUIDE

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Action Custom Goes Into Action!

Can a small, independent golf club manufacturer find success in the merchandising jungle dominated by sports equipment conglomerates?

A Sarasota-based manufacturer is gambling that a little guy can make it with proper personal fitness.

"We can make it by giving personal attention to the customer and selling our custom-fit retailing concept," says Homer Edmonson, President of Tour Manufacturing, Inc., makers of Action Custom Golf Clubs.

"We can't compete with the big national brand companies through pro shops, specialty stores and discount houses so we're going the route with our own retail outlets," Edmonson said.

The TMI plant is located in Garden Industrial Park, east of Sarasota just off Cattlemen Road. In October the firm will move to new, more spacious facilities now under construction on Clark Road south of town. In addition to the manufacturing facility the plant will house a retail operation and the firm's secret weapon, a computer swing analyzer.

THE COMPUTER ANALYZER, already in use in TMI's Clearwater and Jacksonville stores, electronically measures the golfer's clubhead speed at impact. It also checks the swing path of the club to point of impact, the angle of the club face at impact, the distance the ball carried in the air and whether the swinger hit it right, left or center.

The analytical findings are reported instantaneously by flashing lights and digital readouts of clubhead speed and yardage numbers. The display remains lighted after the player with test clubs has propelled a golf ball off the tee into a net 10 feet away.

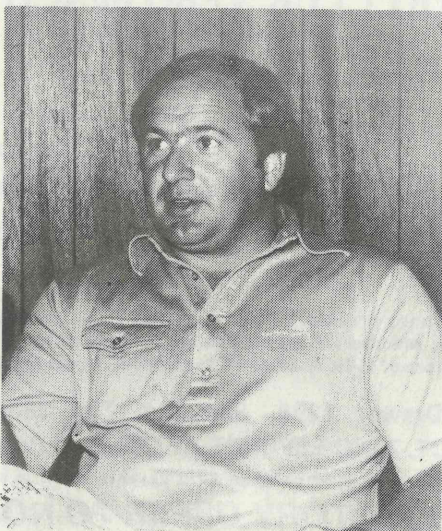
The TMI analyst checking the swing records the pattern of numbers on a special form, noting the club weight, shaft flex and length being used by the player being tested. This log resolves itself into a pattern for correct fit after the player has hit 20 to 25 balls using clubs of varying swing weight.

"Clubhead speed and the proper angle at impact is the key to an effective golf swing. The computer analyzer and the interpretation of the results by our trained staff people, enable us to make sound recommendations for personal club fitting," Edmonson states with the bright-eyed enthusiasm of a man who has come up with a better mouse trap.

It necessarily follows that TMI expects to translate the scientific findings into sale of its clubs to Joe and Jane Golfer after they have been properly fitted, through actual swing measurement, for more responsive and effective equipment.

Where his company only is two years old, Homer Edmonson is no babe-in-the-golf-woods. He cut his teeth 12 years ago with Professional Golf Company in Chattanooga. He started in the Tennessee plant developing new products in the golf club division which at the time manufactured First Flight as well as Arnold Palmer Golf Clubs.

"The computer analyzer, and the interpretation of the results by our trained staff people, enable us to make sound recommendations for personal club fitting."



EDMONSON PREACHES custom club fitting with evangelistic fervor.

AFTER HIS RESEARCH, design and production stint Edmonson hit the road for the company and in short years became PGC's Regional Sales Manager for Southeastern states.

The thousands of calls Edmonson made in those years on retail outlets, pro shops and specialty stores built his dream! To design and manufacture his own line of golf clubs and merchandise them in a unique manner through person to person appeal.

Florida with its heavy visitor and transient traffic presented the ideal

market. First make a quality product, add the friendly personal fit approach, wed fine craftsmanship to computer science and you should be in business. Or should you?

"Well, it hasn't been easy. It's no piece of pie," the outgoing Edmonson smiles as he looks ceilingward in his nattily wood-paneled plant office. The upward glance should not be interpreted as a search for divine guidance but more for the answer to precise locations for two more retail stores to be opened within the next 60 days.

"I hope we'll have those locations pinned down and operating by the time we get into the new plant. If we have five retail outlets over the state — in Clearwater, Jacksonville, Sarasota, Orlando and West Palm Beach — we'll be in all the top golf markets and ready for winter business. That will be the real merchandising test of the program," Edmonson said.

"We know we can make clubs of quality, the equal or superior to anything now on the market. All of our manufacturing people are craft-conscious and have been in this business for a long time. We can render a service to the individual golfer that is not economical for the larger clubmaker. Our factory-direct, custom golf club philosophy is possible only through our size operation. We're set up to manufacture specific types of custom clubs where the giants are locked into big runs of production models."

RECOGNIZING THE SHAMBLES which exist in the "pro only" merchandising of large manufacturers' clubs Edmonson has a view of the pro shop competition.

"When a golfer buys new sticks he's investing heavy money these days. We not only can provide him with comparable or better quality but can give him a custom fit for greater proficiency at no extra cost. The added dimension of our computer analyzer makes it possible and that is a very valid bonus.

"We are manufacturers of custom golf clubs, not lesson-givers. We're not invading that province of the golf professional. Lessons are the job of the golf professional. We manufacture and fit clubs and feel the greatest service can be rendered the buyer by selling direct to him after his physical swing requirements have been satisfied," Edmonson concluded.

**FSGA STATE AMATEUR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP SEPT. 24 — 25, 1977
LONGBOAT KEY GOLF & TENNIS CLUB SARASOTA FLA. — TEAM ENTRY FORM**

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ () Senior Team _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 I am a current member of _____ My current handicap is _____
 Name _____ Date of Birth _____ () Senior Team _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 I am a current member of _____ My current handicap is _____
 Home phone _____ Office ph. _____ () New Member () Renewal () Dues Paid

TEAM ENTRY FEE of \$70 INCLUDES, 2 days golf, carts, Saturday Cocktail Party and must accompany this form. Regular members must include \$20 ANNUAL DUES if not already paid or on FSGA Handicap System. 36-hole stroke play best ball of two man team. FIELD LIMITED TO FIRST 90 TEAMS. PRIZES ALL FLIGHTS. Entries are subject to approval or rejection at any time by FSGA tournament committee.

Send entry to: FSGA, P.O. Drawer 1298, Sarasota, Fla. 33578. PAIRINGS WILL BE MAILED SEPT. 16. NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

**FSGA STATE SENIORS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
OCTOBER 15-16, 1977**

VERO BEACH COUNTRY CLUB, VERO BEACH FLA. — ENTRY FORM

Name Date of Birth.....
 Address..... City Zip.....
 I am a current member of club. My current handicap is.....
 Home phone Office phone () New Member () Renewal () Dues Paid

Entry fee of \$35 includes 2 days golf, carts, Sunday breakfast, Friday practice round (contestants pay for carts in practice round), prizes all flights. Entry fee must accompany this form. Members must include annual dues of \$20 if not already paid or on FSGA handicap system. Tournament is 36 hole stroke play by age divisions of 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70 and over. Gross and net prizes.

Send entry to: FSGA, P.O. Drawer 1298, Sarasota, Fla. 33578. PAIRINGS WILL BE MAILED OCT. 7. NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER TO NON-MEMBERS ONLY
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Beginning July 1, all new member introductory dues of \$9 thru December 31, 1977, entitle you to monthly membership and handicap card update, FSGA publications, entry forms to all Summer/Fall local and state events, golf consumer and travel news.

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 NAME OF YOUR CLUB _____ YOUR CURRENT HANDICAP _____
 MAKE CHECK TO FSGA AND MAIL TO P.O. DRAWER 1298, SARASOTA, FL 33578

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1977 EAST BAY'S INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 29 — Practice Round. Tee Times Please

Friday, Sept. 30 — 1st Round of Tournament
1:00 p.m. — Shotgun Start

6:30-7:30 p.m. — Cocktail Party for all Contestants and Wives or Lady Guests.

7:30-9:00 p.m. — Buffet Dinner & Dancing. Earl Hagen's "Party Poopers" Orchestra

Saturday, Oct. 1 — 2nd Round of Tournament
10:00-11:30 a.m. — Complimentary Buffet Brunch for all Contestants.

12:00 Noon — Shotgun Start

12:00-2:30 p.m. — Complimentary Luncheon and Fashion Show for Ladies.

6:30-7:30 p.m. — Cocktail Party for all Contestants and Wives or Lady Guests.

7:30-9:00 p.m. — Dinner and Dancing. "Billy Moore's Orchestra"

Sunday, Oct. 2 — Final Round of Tournament
10:00-11:30 a.m. — Complimentary Buffet Brunch for all Contestants

12:00 Noon — Shotgun Start

12:00 — Ladies Tennis Tournament. Card Party. Putting Championship

6:30-7:00 p.m. — Hors D'Oeuvres and Awards

FINALE:

SPECIAL PRIZES—MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

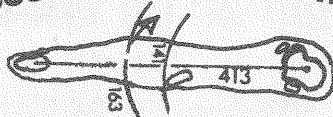
- 1978 Luxury Automobile —
- Hole in One Contest No. 9
- Closest to Pin Contest No. 4
- Hit the Green Contest No. 17
- Putting Championship for Men

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Beach Club Senior Golf

The 16th Annual Fall Tournament of the Florida Seniors is set for November 8-11, 1977, at Naples Beach Club. This yearly event regularly follows FSGA's Life At Forty Tournament played at Lehigh Acres. Dates are November 4-6 this year for the "Forty."

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Ocean	\$108	\$50	\$36	\$29	\$17

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CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

CLUB _____ HANDICAP _____

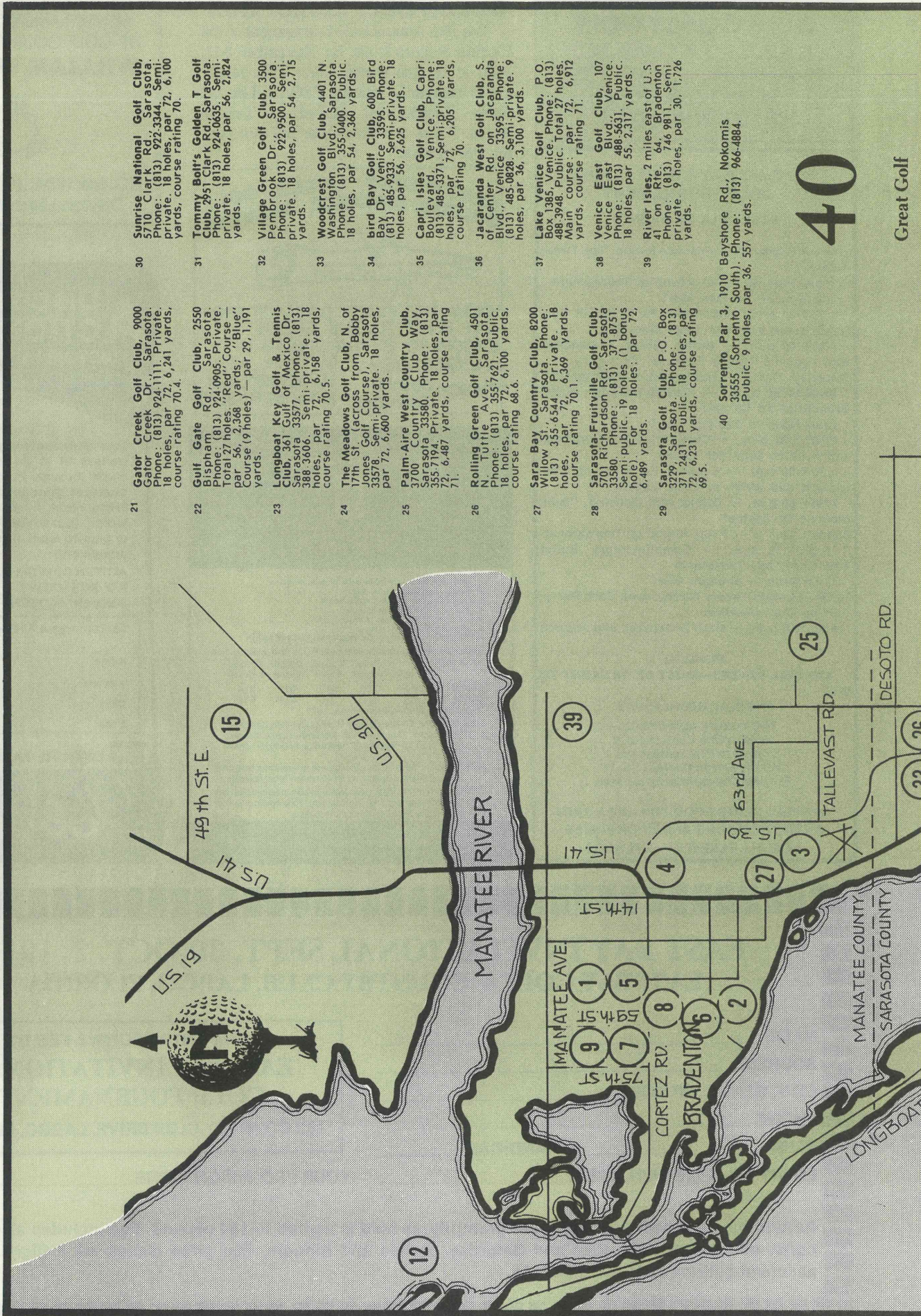
ENTRY FEE \$125 ENCLOSED _____

SEND ENTRY FORM & FEE TO:
**EAST BAY INVITATIONAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

702 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, LARGO, FL 33541

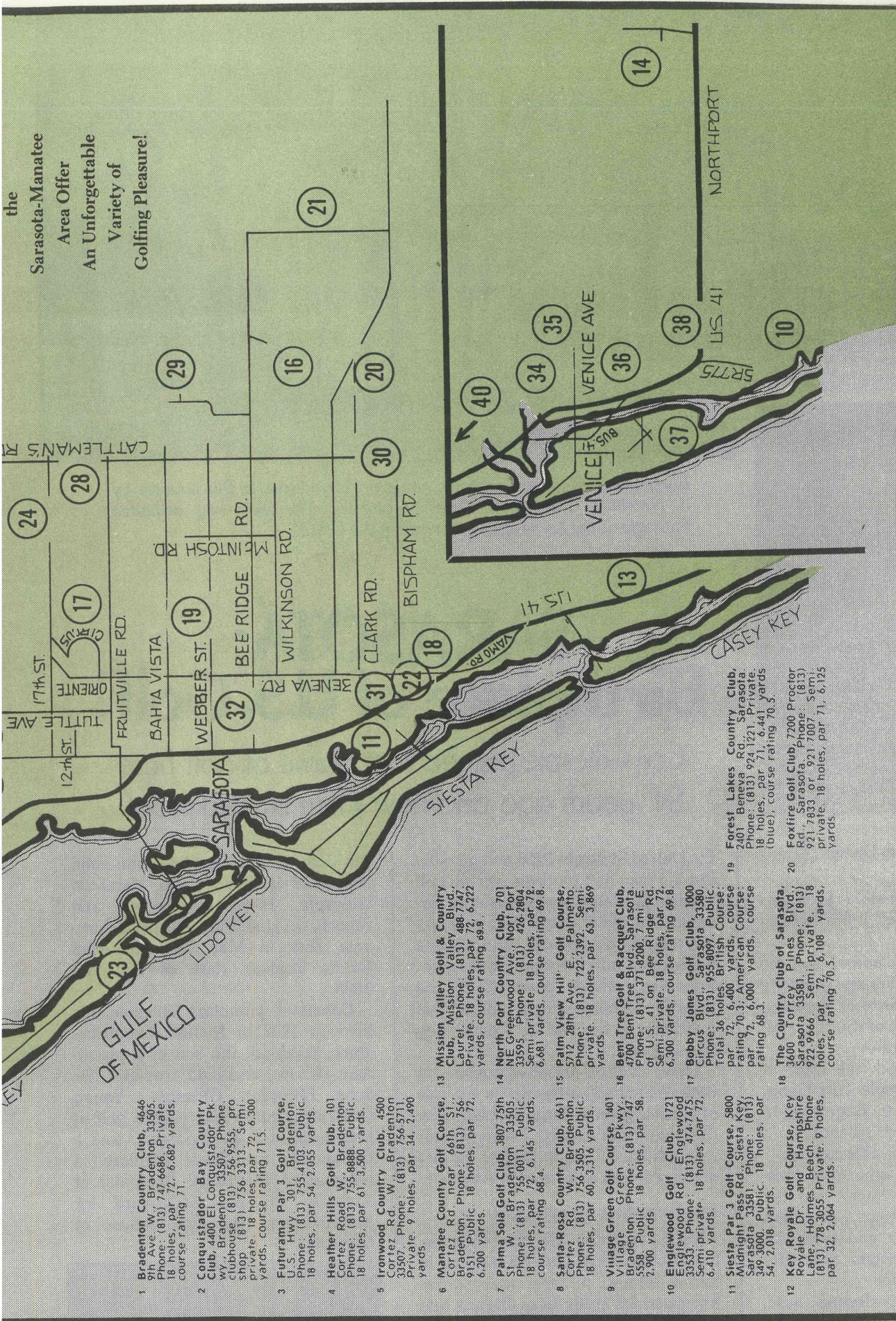
YOUR PRO'S SIGNATURE _____

Return this form with your entry fee promptly as field is limited to 144 players. Fee includes all green fees, carts, entertainment, Friday and Saturday parties and dinners, five prize places each flight. For motel accommodations call (813) 584-7111.



- 21 **Gator Creek Golf Club**, 9000 Gator Creek Dr., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 924-1111. Private. 18 holes, par 72, 6,241 yards, course rating 70.4.
- 22 **Gulf Gate Golf Club**, 2550 Bishopham Rd., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 924-0905. Private. Total 27 holes. "Red" Course — par 56, 2,368 yards; "Blue" Course (9 holes) — par 29, 1,191 yards.
- 23 **Longboat Key Golf & Tennis Club**, 361 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Sarasota 33577. Phone: (813) 388-3606. Semi-private. 18 holes, par 72, 6,158 yards, course rating 70.5.
- 24 **The Meadows Golf Club**, N. of 17th St. (across from Bobby Jones Golf Club), Sarasota 33576. Semi-private. 18 holes, par 72, 6,600 yards.
- 25 **Palm-Aire West Country Club**, 3700 Country Club Way, Sarasota 33580. Phone: (813) 355-7194. Private. 18 holes, par 72, 6,487 yards, course rating 71.
- 26 **Rolling Green Golf Club**, 4501 N. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 355-7621. Public. 18 holes, par 72, 6,100 yards, course rating 68.6.
- 27 **Sara Bay Country Club**, 8200 Willow St., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 355-6392. Private. 18 holes, par 72, 6,369 yards, course rating 70.1.
- 28 **Sarasota-Fruitville Golf Club**, 5701 Richardson Rd., Sarasota 33580. Phone: (813) 371-8751. Semi-public. 19 holes (1 bonus hole). For 18 holes: par 72, 6,487 yards.
- 29 **Sarasota Golf Club**, P.O. Box 3229, Sarasota. Phone: (813) 371-2431. Public. 18 holes, par 72, 6,231 yards, course rating 69.5.
- 30 **Sunrise National Golf Club**, 5710 Clark Rd., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 922-3344. Semi-private. 18 holes, par 72, 6,100 yards, course rating 70.
- 31 **Tommy Bolt's Golden T Golf Club**, 2951 Clark Rd., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 924-0635. Semi-private. 18 holes, par 56, 2,824 yards.
- 32 **Village Green Golf Club**, 3500 Pembroke Dr., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 922-9500. Semi-private. 18 holes, par 54, 2,715 yards.
- 33 **Woodcrest Golf Club**, 4401 N. Wiggins Blvd., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 355-0400. Public. 18 holes, par 54, 2,360 yards.
- 34 **Bird Bay Golf Club**, 600 Bird Bay Dr., Venice 33595. Phone: (813) 485-9333. Semi-private. 18 holes, par 56, 2,625 yards.
- 35 **Capri Isles Golf Club**, Caori Boulevard, Venice. Phone: (813) 485-3371. Semi-private. 18 holes, par 72, 6,205 yards, course rating 70.
- 36 **Jacaranda West Golf Club**, S. of Center Rd. on Jacaranda Blvd., Venice 33595. Phone: (813) 485-0828. Semi-private. 9 holes, par 36, 3,100 yards.
- 37 **Lake Venice Golf Club**, P.O. Box 1385, Venice. Phone: (813) 488-3948. Public. Total 27 holes. Main course: par 72, 6,912 yards, course rating 71.
- 38 **Venice East Golf Club**, 107 Venice East Blvd., Venice. Phone: (813) 488-5631. Public. 18 holes, par 55, 2,317 yards.
- 39 **River Isles**, 2 miles east of U.S. 41 on Rte. 64, Bradenton. Phone: (813) 746-9811. Semi-private. 9 holes, par 30, 1,726 yards.
- 40 **Sorrento Par 3**, 1910 Baysshore Rd., Nokomis 33555 (Sorrento South). Phone: (813) 966-4884. Public. 9 holes, par 36, 557 yards.

the
Sarasota-Manatee
Area Offer
An Unforgettable
Variety of
Golfing Pleasure!



- 1 **Bradenton Country Club**, 4646 9th Ave. W., Bradenton, 33505. Phone: (813) 747-6686. Private, 18 holes, par 72, 6,682 yards, course rating 71.
- 2 **Conquistador Bay Country Club**, 4400 Elliotton Station Pk., Bradenton, 33507. Phone: (813) 756-9555. Pro clubhouse, (813) 756-9555. Pro shop, (813) 756-3313. Semi-private, 18 holes, par 72, 6,300 yards, course rating 71.5.
- 3 **Futura Par 3 Golf Course**, U.S. Hwy 301, Bradenton, 33505. Phone: (813) 755-4105. Public, 18 holes, par 34, 2,695 yards.
- 4 **Heather Hills Golf Club**, 101 Cortez Road W., Bradenton. Phone: (813) 755-8888. Public, 18 holes, par 61, 3,500 yards.
- 5 **Ironwood Country Club**, 4500 Cortez Rd. W., Bradenton. Phone: (813) 756-3490. Private, 9 holes, par 34, 2,490 yards.
- 6 **Manatee County Golf Course**, Cortez Rd. near 66th St., Bradenton. Phone: (813) 756-9151. Public, 18 holes, par 72, 6,200 yards.
- 7 **Paima Sola Golf Club**, 3807 75th St. W., Bradenton, 33505. Phone: (813) 755-0011. Public, 18 holes, par 72, 6,145 yards, course rating 68.4.
- 8 **Santa Rosa Country Club**, 6611 Cortez Rd. W., Bradenton. Phone: (813) 756-3505. Public, 18 holes, par 69, 3,316 yards.
- 9 **Vivage Green Golf Course**, 1401 Village Green Pkwy., Bradenton. Phone: (813) 747-5558. Public, 18 holes, par 58, 2,900 yards.
- 10 **Englewood Golf Club**, 1721 Englewood Rd., Bradenton. Phone: (813) 747-3533. Private, 18 holes, par 72, 6,410 yards.
- 11 **Siesta Par 3 Golf Course**, 5800 Midnight Pass Rd., Siesta Key, Sarasota. Phone: (813) 349-3000. Public, 18 holes, par 54, 2,018 yards.
- 12 **Key Royale Golf Course**, Key Royale and Harbor Shire, Lido Key, Sarasota. Phone: (813) 778-3055. Private, 9 holes, par 32, 2,064 yards.
- 13 **Mission Valley Golf & Country Club**, Mission Valley Blvd., Laurel. Phone: (813) 488-7747. Private, 18 holes, par 72, 6,222 yards, course rating 69.5.
- 14 **North Port Country Club**, 701 NE Greenwood Ave., North Port. Phone: (813) 426-2804. Semi-private, 18 holes, par 72, 6,681 yards, course rating 69.8.
- 15 **Palm View Hill Golf Course**, 5712 28th Ave. E., Palmetto. Phone: (813) 722-2392. Semi-private, 18 holes, par 63, 3,869 yards.
- 16 **Bent Tree Golf & Racquet Club**, 4700 Bent Tree Blvd., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 371-8200. 7 mi. E. of U.S. 41 on Bee Ridge Rd. Semi-private, 18 holes, par 72, 6,300 yards, course rating 69.8.
- 17 **Bobby Jones Golf Club**, 1000 Bobby Jones Pk., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 955-8097. Public, Total 36 holes, British Course, par 72, 6,400 yards, course rating 70.3; American course, par 72, 6,000 yards, course rating 68.3.
- 19 **Forest Lakes Country Club**, 2401 Beneva Rd., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 924-1221. Private, 18 holes, par 71, 6,441 yards (blue), course rating 70.5.
- 20 **The Country Club of Sarasota**, 5600 Torres Pines Blvd., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 927-9800. Semi-private, 18 holes, par 72, 6,100 yards, course rating 70.5.

Forest Lakes Country Club, Sarasota. Phone: (813) 924-1221. Private, 18 holes, par 71, 6,441 yards (blue), course rating 70.5.

Foxfire Golf Club, 7200 Proctor Rd., Sarasota. Phone: (813) 927-7033. Semi-private, 18 holes, par 71, 6,125 yards.



Early Sarasota golfers enjoying the sport introduced to this country by J. Hamilton Gillespie, a Sarasota pioneer. The facts now establish Sarasota as the home of the first golf in the U.S.A.



SARASOTA: Birthplace of U.S. Golf!

Col. Gillespie played first game of golf here
91 years ago and now there is solid proof.

by William Carey

First.

That's what a Sarasota Scot was when he built two golf holes here in May 1886.

And we're aware, laddie, that for 89 years documentation and publicity bred popular acceptance of Yonkers, New York, as the site of the first golf holes in the United States.

This is not to knock the D&P of John Reid and his Apple Tree Gang, may they rest in peace. Beginning in 1888 they performed splendidly in promoting early golf in this country.

Reid also had the smarts to indicate his cow pasture layout was the St. Andrews of America, an adroit hustle which further endeared the effort to historians, writers, golf buffs and duffers everywhere.

A wily native of Dumferline, Scotland, Reid was born in 1840, came to

the United States in 1866 and actually did not play golf until his private golf hole project. But he obviously understood that when one stakes a claim, one tells people about it. And to make it stick you tell 'em again and again. Repeated telling gave Reid the muscle memory which popped his golf holes to the top for a good long 89 year run.

Now, at the shortened-backswing time of life, and attracted to the role of curmudgeon-at-large furnished by the findings of history, I seek greater recognition for the authentic builder of the real first golf holes in America.

Ours was first by two years

Public records of the Sarasota County Historical Commission, early family letters, pictures and diaries borrowed for study from friends and neighbors, have convinced me that

the first builder was not John Reid but another Scot, John Hamilton Gillespie. Many documents and reports substantiate Gillespie's Sarasota work in May 1886 preceded Reid's Yonkers date of February 1888.

Colonel J. Hamilton Gillespie was born in 1852 in Maffat, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, the son of a prominent attorney and land promoter, Sir John Hamilton Gillespie. Young Gillespie studied law, played golf at Edinburgh and St. Andrews, was a Captain in the Royal Artillery, a member of the Royal Company of Archers, Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland and the first mayor of Sarasota.

This article is reprinted from SARASOTA TOWN & COUNTY MAGAZINE'S special Gillespie issue.

John Gillespie, in true fact, was the world's first golf traveler. He arrived in Sarasota, by way of Australia from Scotland, with golf sticks. Since the current vogue of itinerant golfers is to make the world's courses their playing ground, our man's "have clubs will travel" credentials were pure and 50 years ahead of his time.

But consider now how the "Gillespie was first" story was handled in the New York press in one of the few mentions the subject ever received out of the Sarasota area.

Joe Williams, a sturdy practitioner of the sportswriter's craft during the rough and tumble 1930s, wrote it this way in his World-Telegram column dated March 21, 1935:

"The Yonkers adventure is, of course, completely authentic, but if any historian wishes to wager this club was the first to re-echo the piteous cry of, 'Boy, my niblick, please!' he should proceed with great caution and frugality. To come right out and say so, he should keep his money in his pocket.

"Yonkers just wasn't the first golf club in America. The Sarasota Golf Club preceded Yonkers by at least two years. For some strange reason, this interesting historical item has just been brought to light. There is indisputable evidence that golf was played here (Sarasota) in 1886. The widow of the man who built the course is still alive to confirm the facts.

"She is Mrs. J. Hamilton Gillespie, a gracious lady who lives here in an attractive home. Her husband — very probably the father of American golf — died on a golf course here 12 years ago."

There were a few more honest but faint-hearted efforts during the 1930s to report golf's beginnings in Sarasota. But no one came along to really light the fire.

Gillespie, himself, wrote occasional articles but they were mostly pieces reminiscing of his early days in the game, how the great players of the day employed their special shots for repeated victories, the changes in equipment and social structure which was providing the ladies more liberal use of golf courses.

Most of his writings followed World War I. In the 1920s he appeared in *Golfer's Magazine*, *Sarasota Times* and *Herald* and several

British publications which covered the sport. Other well known personalities and writers like John Ringling, Gene Plowden, O.B. Keeler, Joe Graffis and Herbert Warren Wind mentioned the first golf holes but never ran with them for wide recognition.

Wind, in his "Story of American Golf," recognized as the history of the game, makes brief but erroneous mention of Gillespie. The material appeared in the eminent historian's first work in 1948 and was repeated verbatim in the monumental update published by Knopf in 1975.

He wrote:

"In 1873 the Royal Montreal Golf Club, the first on this side of the Atlantic, was formed, and at about this time follow-throughs began to ripple south of the border. These were the gyrations of Scottish settlers who had brought their baffies and gutties to the New World with them, the way Italians carried their violins and French women their needles. In 1883, for example, Colonel J. Hamilton Gillespie, investigating the possibilities of a lumber business in Florida, used to relax after a hard day's work by hitting shots up and down what is now the main street of Sarasota."

Joe Graffis, one of golf's pioneer editors and publishers, now retired and living in Venice, forecast in the mid-30s in his *Golfdom Magazine* that, "The resulting publicity which will occur when Sarasota memorializes the establishment here of the first golf course in America, will bring thousands upon thousands of additional state revenue and income."

In those days before the golf explosion, pollution, crowded roads and environmental protection agencies, it was the fashion for Florida resort communities to go with their best attraction to lure visitors. But Chamber of Commerce, City and County officials and private enterprise, for some unexplained reason, couldn't see the value of promoting the fact that the first golf holes were built in Sarasota.

It has been a 20 year fascination to review Gillespie's writings, records and memorabilia. Visiting Scotland where he and the game began contributed vast pleasure to reflective and meditative hours. Had I lived in

Sarasota in his day I surely would have sought him as my Golf Guru.

Musing about how things probably were prompts a wee dram of speculation with the auld Scot's spirit. Given that license I think his answers would play through this way...

Carey: J. Hamilton, was John Reid a pretender to the title "Father of American Golf?"

Gillespie: Aye, laddie. He was among the early ones. But not furrst.

Carey: Even before Reid and his Apple Tree Gang, weren't there other locations in the country where golf was claimed to be played?

Gillespie: True. But there is a lack of documentation. No doubt, with the number of Scots landing here in the mid-19th century, that there was some knocking of gutties in fields around America. The game was reported played at the Dorset Golf Club, Dorset, Vermont, in the summer of 1886, following our effort in that year. But there was no documentation of the date at the time of the first playing.

Carey: How many holes did you actually build in May 1886?

Gillespie: Twa holes f'r practice an' they can be extended later, was the way I told my friends.

Carey: And you later added two holes at the original site.

Gillespie: Aye. The furrst tee was at the rear of what was to become the Mira Mar Hotel. The holes extended easterly around a pond and across a meadow to the area near Main Street where Central School was built.

Carey: Colonel, that's about a five iron shot from where the FSGA's office has been for many years. After the four holes you continued east and built a new nine hole course?

Gillespie: And a clubhouse! Twas a beauty. It was 1904 when we built Sarasota Golf Club.

Carey: Gary Player came to visit that site in the late 1960s. In 1958 the late Willie Robarts formally dedicated a Gillespie Garden there and mounted a bronze plaque which still stands, in memory of your early work.

Gillespie: Beootiful. I would have liked to participate in the affair.

Carey: Getting back to the early building, Colonel, there are legendary reports of golf in the 1780s at Harleston Green in Charleston, South

Carolina. However, no hard evidence to prove the golf club was anything but a place for social gatherings. No golf holes ever were documented and certainly women weren't playing in those days, right?

Gillespie: Correct. In my own recollection, up to the 1860s ladies golf was quite unheard of. Ladies, indeed, were asked not to walk around the course with their husbands and their presence on the links was undesired, save and except at the clubhouse at St. Andrews, on the model days in spring and autumn.

Carey: I have a very treasured print of a picture taken in 1905 at your Sarasota Golf Club showing a mixed foursome at play. Matter of fact, the caption indicated your wife, Blanche, was on the tee at the time and you were looking on with approval. The "No Ladies" rule apparently didn't apply at Sarasota.

Gillespie: Ah, yes. I remember the photograph. We were very pleased to have the ladies active at Sarasota. They added greatly to the golf and social atmosphere.

Carey: Colonel, you'd be pleased to know that every February Sarasota now is host to one of the more successful events on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour.

Gillespie: Aye, the ladies have come a long way. One of the great steps forward was taken for them in 1886 at St. Andrews when an 18 hole putting course was established at the mouth of Swilcan Burn and strict rules were made as to ladies trespassing upon the regular men's course close by.

Ah, yes, J. Hamilton, the ladies have come a long way. So, too, has the game you brought with you from the old country. Although lax in taking more pride in our golf beginnings, the development of the game in the Manatee-Sarasota area has been brisk, indeed, as witness the activity on 38 courses in the two-county spread.

More than one million rounds of golf are played annually in the area where it all began. Incidentally, the teeing ground used by Gillespie in the then little fishing village of Sarasota, actually was part of Manatee County at the time, further embellishing our two-county golf heritage.

It is hoped that FSGA's first

Gillespie Golf Week, held in May this year at the Country Club of Sarasota, will develop into something special and lasting. Dedicated to a golfer, so imbued with the spirit and wonder of the game, that he was often heard to remark to non-players, "Mon, yer missing half y'er life."

You can bet the swinging Scot didn't miss half his life, for he played the game for 63 of his 71 years. In character to the end, Gillespie suffered a heart attack, collapsed on his own Sarasota course, died the next day, September 7, 1923, at his

home a midiron away from the clubhouse.

Great events in history, like Scots Whisky, gain flavor with age. May the Gillespie golf story be exposed to the millions who accept the game as the auld Scot did.

He was our earliest warm-bodied symbol. Symbols should be preserved. A society which wastes its symbols ultimately loses its identity. Golf is an identity important to our social order. We must honor its past and tradition, improve its present, plan well for its future. **T&C**



Illustration by Sydney Hauser

J. HAMILTON GILLESPIE

Bill Dotson Winner of Lone Palm Event

Bill Dotson of Lakeland nipped par by one stroke to squeeze out Austin Jones of Orlando for the FSGA's one-day Scholarship Tournament title at the Lone Palm Golf Club, Lakeland, Aug. 21.

Dotson toured the 18-hole layout in 71 strokes. Chris Crytzer of Tampa and Don Whittemore of Temple Terrace tied for third with 73s in the championship division. All scores in that division were gross.

In the other divisions, prizes were awarded low gross winners and net winners. Altogether, more than 20 prizes were awarded in four divisions.

The Winners:

0-4 Division (Gross Only) Bill Dotson, Lakeland, 71; Austin Jones, Orlando, 72; Chris Crytzer, Tampa, 73; Don Whittemore, Temple Terrace, 73.

5-8 Division Walt Schmidt, Sarasota, 74, Net, Jim Donahue, Clearwater, 71; Ron Elisha, Bradenton, 71; Tom Cook, Bradenton, 72; Bob McCullers, Leesburg, 72; J. Serles, Temple Terrace, 72; Jeff Johnston, Bradenton, 73; Bruce Mohr, Sarasota, 73.

9-12 Division Gross Rex Cobb, Palm Bay, 74; Net, Earl Danley, Winter Park, 69; Clifton Duty, Orlando, 71; Nate Schine Tampa 71.

13-Over Division Gross J. Sommerville, Orlando, 82; Net, R. Davenport, Lakeland, 67; Reg Cobb, Palm Bay, 71; J. Hughes, Sebring, 74; G. Strength, Satellite Bch. 74.

New USGA Handicap Allowances Effective Jan. 1

THE USGA HAS ANNOUNCED new handicap allowances for multi-ball events — four-ball (better-ball) and best-ball-of-four competitions — will become effective January 1, 1978. The allowances are as follows:

Four-ball match play: 100 per cent
 Four-ball stroke play: 90 per cent
 Best-ball-of-four stroke play: 80 per cent
 First-and-second-best-balls-of-four: 90 per cent

The new allowances will supersede the current allowances of 80 per cent for both



Dexter Daniels, Sr., of Winter Haven is shown with his Hall of Fame award, recently presented by the Florida State Golf Association. Daniels is the first to receive the newly-initiated award. In 1956, he and son Dexter, Jr., won the Father-Son National Championship. The award proclaimed Dexter, Sr., "Florida's premier amateur golfer of the past 50 years."

Welcome to New FSGA Member Clubs

The FSGA takes pleasure in welcoming five new members to its club rolls, three of which are in the southeast sector of the state and the other two in the northern tier.

The southerly trio are Crane Creek Country Club of Stuart, Quail Ridge Golf & Tennis Club of Delray Beach, and the Dade Amateur Golf Association of Miami.

In the northern sector are Jefferson Country Club of Monticello, near Tallahassee, and Rolling Greens Country Club of Milton at the westerly end of the Florida Panhandle.

four-ball match play and stroke play and 70 per cent for best-ball-of-four. There is no current allowance for the first-and-second-best-balls-of-four.

In applying the 100 per cent allowance in four-ball match play, the lowest handicapper in the match plays at scratch and the other three players receive the full difference between their handicaps and his. In multi-ball stroke play handicaps are determined by multiplying the player's regular handicap by the specified percentage.

FSGA Seniors meet in Vero Championship

Senior members of Florida State Golf Association converge at Vero Beach Country Club Oct. 15-16 to vie for the FSGA Seniors title, won last year over the Vero Beach layout by steady shotmaker Ralph Raymond, Sr., of Sarasota.

Raymond, a veteran of FSGA links battles, carried off the title after nipping Tom Grady of Orlando in a playoff. Both Raymond and Grady had finished the regulation 36 holes with two-over-par 146s, and in the sudden death playoff Raymond dropped a birdie chip-shot on the second green to clinch the victory, after Grady carded par.

Raymond was chosen as one of four FSGA players to go to the National Bicentennial Tournament of Champions at Kingsmill Golf Club, Williamsburg, Virginia, last October, just a month after winning the Seniors title, but was unable to attend. Grady, the runnerup, substituted in his place. Other members of the Florida foursome were Glen Kirk (then Amateur champ), Austin Jones (current president of FSGA), and Dexter Daniels, Jr., 1976 FSGA president.

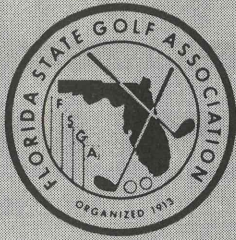
Both Raymond and Grady are expected to compete once again in the Seniors match at the Vero Beach layout.

Contestants will compete in age divisions beginning with the 55-59 bracket and progressing through 60-64, 65-69, and 70 and over. Gross and net prizes will be awarded in all flights.

The tournament is open to all FSGA members who meet the age requirements and who have paid their annual dues of \$20 or are on the FSGA handicap system.

Entry fee for the tournament is \$35 which includes two days of golf, carts, prizes, Sunday breakfast, and a Friday practice round (contestants pay for carts in the practice round).

**TOURNAMENT
 ENTRY FORMS
 PAGES 6 & 7**



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WE GET LETTERS

GOOD TO BE BACK

I thank you for sending me the magazine and the entry form for the state 4-ball. I also thank you for holding a spot for my Partner and myself for this tournament. I have enjoyed playing in it in the past and am looking forward to September.

I am enclosing my check for \$88.00 which is for my Partner and my entry fee of \$70.00 and \$18.00 for our \$9.00 dues each.

I'm glad to be back in the state and also back in the FSGA.

Russell G. Hess
Lakeland

LIFE AT FORTY READY

Confirming your life Begins at Forty Tournament, arriving Thursday, November 3 and checking out Saturday, November 6, 1977. I am holding 125 rooms at \$18 per room, single or double occupancy. As I mentioned, all of our older rooms, previously termed "standard" will have been completely remodeled.

Some other new features are the addition of the Boutique in the main lobby, a plant house in the court yard, a larger package store in a new location and a beauty salon for the girls after a hard day in the outdoors.

By the time you receive this letter, the Resort Social Hostess, Michele, should have contacted your wife to discuss the non-golfing wives activities. New names handling other areas are Mary Ann in reservations, Rose in charge of the front desk, the one who really runs the whole thing — Kathi, my secretary. Connor Chambers has taken Bill Neal's place.

Bill, I appreciate the business and will do everything possible to make this another successful Lehigh tournament.

Ron Drake, Director
Lehigh Resort Motel

APPRECIATION

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the fine article you wrote about my Dad in the August F.S.G.A. Newsletter.

I feel that your column, more than any other, portrayed the real Dick Demarest. He loved golf and his profession; to say the very least, it was his life and had been for almost fifty years, and because of this, he defended it when he felt necessary. I

sometimes wonder how many of us would do the same?

In closing, I want to again thank you. You can be assured that I will always keep your column, as it will bring many happy thoughts.

Peter A. Demarest
Cortez, Fla.

GILLESPIE'S GOLF CLUBS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, personally, and on behalf of Maas Brothers for your interest and kind help offered us as we prepared to open our new store at the South Trail Mall.

Customer reaction and interest in the display of Colonel Gillespie's golf clubs has been very exciting, and we are proud to be able to tie in to the historical significance of the game in Sarasota.

Again, our thanks for all your kind help as we put this program together.

Steve Rix
Director Visual Merchandising
Maas Brothers

HISTORY CORRECTED

What a thrill to receive the FSGA Golf News and the SARASOTA TOWN & COUNTY MAGAZINE featuring your excellent article on Colonel John Hamilton Gillespie. The only error I could find was about the print of the mixed foursome: . . . "the caption indicated your wife, Blanche, was on the tee at the time . . .". Cousin Blanche was the second lady from the left, in the background, Cousin Kathleen standing next to her. Both of them wearing hats. I believe the lady addressing the ball was my aunt, Willa (Chapline) Kirkland, the oldest child of my grandparents, Judge and Mrs. J.B. Chapline, Sr. Cousin Louise, or Kathleen, could identify her I am sure. Or, better yet, Marcella (Mrs. Allen W.) Spencer, 1865 Fifth St., Sarasota, who is a niece of Cousin Blanche (McDaniel) Gillespie.

Neal Chapline Swalm
Cullowhee, N.C.

FSGA 1977 TOURNAMENTS

Sept. 24-25 State Four-Ball with Senior Section, 36 holes, Longboat Key Golf Club, Sarasota.

Oct. 15-16 State Seniors Championship, 36 holes, Vero Beach Country Club.

Nov. 4-6 Lehigh "Life at Forty," 54 holes, Lehigh Country Club.

Dec. 3-4 Holiday Four-Ball, 36 holes, King's Inn, Sun City Center.



ARONIMINK — John Fought, the tall Oregonian whose summer golf was the hottest thing since aluminum seat-belt buckles, burned his way through a not-so-flame-resistant Doug Fischesser to win 9 and 8 in the final round of the 77th Annual U.S. Amateur Golf Championship here.

Fought, through this final amateur victory, won 22 consecutive matches during his summer tournament campaign. During the awards ceremony he acknowledged that he would soon turn professional.

Fischesser, who played his college golf at Florida State University, and is now an assistant golf course superintendent in Connersville, Indiana, was the closest relationship Florida had to the title this year.

Five times since 1965 Floridians have captured the world's greatest amateur golf tournament. Bob Murphy, Jr., in 1965; Bruce Fleischer in '68, Steve Melnyk in '69, Jerry Pate in '74 and Fred Ridley in '75, were Sunshine State stalwarts who went all the way. Ridley is the only remaining amateur of the select group and one of 16 Floridians who play in the National Championship at Aronimink Golf Club, a post-card pretty layout with a heritage back to 1896.

Ridley was eliminated in the match play spectacular by Hal Sutton of Blanchard, Louisiana, in the third round. Buddy Alexander of St. Petersburg also made it to the third round but was beaten by Fischesser en route to his appointment with Fought in the final.

Dallas Apelgren, of North Palm Beach and the University of Florida, came away with the best record of advancement. He went to the fourth round Saturday morning when he was beaten 3 and 1 by hometown favorite Jay Sigel, a Walker Cup team member from Newtown Square, Pa.

Sigel, a super striker of the ball who has won everything worth mentioning in Pennsylvania, was beaten by Fought, 2 up, in the semi-final round. The spacious men's locker room at Aronimink is wall to wall with plaques bearing witness to Sigel's links accomplishments. He is Mr. Everything in the golf business hereabouts. And the local gentry in the rolling horse country west of Philadelphia, where General "Mad Anthony" Wayne cut off the British at the passes and in the valleys

during the American Revolution, certainly figured Sigel would go all the way on his home track.

Although beaten by Fought in the semis, Sigel's toughest match came in the second round against Backman J. Jones of Tampa. That's Johnny Jones, the tousled, blond, splendid-splinter of Florida junior golf who is headed to Oklahoma State this month.

Jones spent 13 hours at Aronimink on Thursday of tournament week. He was up at 5 a.m. for a 7 a.m. tee-off to complete his first round match of Wednesday which had been halted by rain and darkness. He birdied the par five, 16th hole in that head-to-header to close out Richard McClear of Detroit, 3 and 2. He then had to wait more than five hours for his 1:32 p.m. pairing against Sigel.

The Sigel-Jones do was a classic confrontation between a seasoned, world class veteran with a vast following and a smiling, polite collegian who carried his own bag, and could cold play. In a thriller which saw the lead change several times by the slim margin of one hole, play came to the 17th, a par three, where Jones chipped in for birdie from 75 feet to go even. The 18th was halved in pars.

Tee-up time for sudden death on Number one brought additional fans scurrying to follow the action. By now Jones was as much a favorite as Sigel. Both had close rolls for birdies at the 428 yard opener and halved with pars. On the 20th hole, No. 2 on the scorecard, 379 yards, Jones was on in regulation 30 feet from the hole. Sigel, who had birdied the hole the first time it was played in the match, hit an absolutely perfect soft wedge over a yawning bunker and came to rest eight feet from the pin. He rolled in the putt dead center, shook his head in almost disbelief of the epic struggle, grasped Johnny's outstretched hand and said: "Toughest match I've ever had."

The crowd, headed back for the cardiac climb to the clubhouse, roared its approval of both players. Many fans came up to Jones to express the thought that they had just seen the championship match and it was a shame there couldn't be two winners.

Walking back to the clubhouse with Gary Schroeder, another of the Florida player contingent and this writer, Jones

acknowledged that Sigel would be the player to beat for the title.

"I've never seen a guy hit so many good, solid shots in a round of golf," Jones said.

Mutual respect continued during the media interview in the USGA press room when Sigel again noted: "That was the toughest match I can remember. I knew Johnny was good, but that was just too much. He got it up and down six times, not counting the two times he chipped in."

In addition to Ridley, Alexander, Apelgren, Jones and Schroeder, already mentioned, Florida's complement at the National Championship included: Bill Bevan, Jacksonville; John Pacuk, Lake Shore; Jim Patrone, Royal Palm; Tom and Terry Anton, Gainesville; Ken Snyder, Winter Haven; Terry May, Altamonte Springs; Jack Veghte, St. Petersburg; John Duggan, Ft. Lauderdale; Darrell Welker, Sunrise; and Bill May, Miami. The 16 qualifiers shared honors with California's 16 as being the most from a single state to qualify for the National Championship.

The Anton twins, from Columbus, Georgia, but playing out of the University of Florida and qualifying in the state, were the first twins act to make it together for the USGA's great event.

A 77th happening of anything is awe-inspiring. For contestants, host club members and USGA officials alike, the 1977 U.S. Amateur Golf Championship at Aronimink, was a measure of greatness in the game to be long remembered.

If the good Lord's willing and the creeks don't rise, we'll be aboard for the next highlight national chapter in amateur golf at Plainfield, New Jersey in 1978.

FSGA Fall Board Meeting Sept. 23

The Board of Directors of Florida State Golf Association will meet at Longboat Key Golf Club, Sarasota, Friday, Sept. 23, at 5:30 p.m. The Fall meeting will be held in the clubhouse just prior to the welcoming party for contestants and guests which will be hosted by Arvida Corporation and the Longboat Key Club, site of FSGA's State Amateur Four Ball Championship Sept. 24-25.

Principal business at the meeting will be to ratify the dates of the 1978 State Amateur Championship, to discuss a possible qualification format for the event and to consider invitations from other courses for 1978 FSGA tournaments.

The President C.C. will host 1978 State Amateur Championship

WEST PALM BEACH — The 61st Annual FSGA State Amateur Golf Championship will be held June 8-11, 1978, at The President Country Club here.

The four-day, 72-hole stroke play Championship is the oldest continuous sports event held in Florida and will be played in this area for the first time since 1967 when John Darr, Jr., won the amateur title with a tournament record 278 score at PGA National, Palm Beach Gardens.

The invitation to play the event at The President, extended by Perini Development Company, Senior Vice President, John P. Linstroth, was accepted in August by FSGA's site selection committee after inspection of several courses in the Palm Beach area.

The selection committee was composed of E. Austin Jones, FSGA President; Kevin Butler, Vice President; Bill Carey, Executive Director; Mickey Van Gerbig and John Matthews. Van Gerbig is the current State Amateur Champion, winning the title at Orlando's Bay Hill Golf Club in June.

In learning of the selection Linstroth wrote: "Our club staff including our Golf Director, Jack Sanford; Rick Jensen, Head Golf Professional and George Cavanaugh, Greens Superintendent, are looking forward to the event with great enthusiasm. You may communicate with Jack Sanford regarding any information or assistance FSGA may require during the coming months."

The handicap requirement to receive an invitation to play in the State Championship will be four and under and the field will be reduced to 128 players. There will be a senior section for 20 players 55 years old and over. Senior players will be required to have a handicap of six or under.

Invitations and entry forms for FSGA members will be mailed April 1, 1978.

GULF COAST GOLF

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You've earned it. Now do something about it. Whether it's this year, next year, or the year after, now's the time to do something about your big vacation. The first step is to drive out to Longboat Key and see the handsomely furnished models in Arvida's Seaplace apartments on the Gulf and Bay Isles waterfront homes on the Bay. But don't wait too long. Places like this are hard to come by. Anywhere. And once they're gone there may never be any more. Look at it this way. You've earned the big vacation. Take it. Now. While you can.



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